AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 with the following replacement paragraph.

In order to avoid such errors, speech recognition systems are trained to the speech of the individual speakers, so that the speech recognition system can determine whether the acoustic signal derives from the speaker or is a background noise. Speech recognition systems having frequently changing speakers cannot be trained for every individual speaker. Given a speech recognition system integrated in a telephone system, thus, it is impossible to carry out a training ~~phases~~ phase lasting a number of minutes for every caller before the caller can speak his message, which often lasts only a fraction of a minute.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 9 with the following replacement paragraphs.

According to a fifth version of the error elimination, the words of what are referred to as n-best lists are individually interpreted. Often, a number of words that ~~sounds~~ sound similar can be allocated to a signal sequence. These words form the n-best lists. Since the boundaries between the pauses and the respective word given the individual words of the n-best list differ, average word volumes and, accordingly, different differences Δ can be determined for the individual words of the n-best list.

The selection of the word of the n-best list that is inserted into the text ensues according to known match criteria, whereby the difference Δ can be inventively employed as an additional match criterion, whereby the word having the greatest difference Δ is inserted into the text. This ~~fourth~~ fifth version of the error elimination forms an independent idea of the invention that can also be utilized in the automatic evaluation of n-best lists independently of the above-described method.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 with the following replacement paragraph.

When this increase shows that the difference Δ is smaller than the threshold SW, then this means that the volume distance between the average word volume Wo level and the average silence volume Si level is less than the predetermined threshold SW. The word whose volume distance between the average word volume ~~level~~ Wo level and the average silence volume Si level is lower than the predetermined threshold SW is evaluated as having been incorrectly recognized, since the

inventors of the present invention have found that the unwanted noises are usually not as loud as the word signals to be evaluated or that, given a constant unwanted noise (noise in the line, loud background noise) where in no satisfactory speech recognition is possible, the volume distance between the average word volume and the average silence volume is extremely slight. When the acquired signal is converted into a text in both instances, it ~~merely~~ almost always results in an incorrect recognition. When the inquire in Step S6 yields that the difference Δ is lower than the threshold SW, the program execution is branched to the Step S7 wherein an error elimination is implemented, this being explained later.